Amnsements and Alcetings.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.-At 11: Martha. Ilma di Murska BROOKLYN ACADENY.—Philharmonic Society's Concert.
BOOTH'S THEATER.—At 14 and 8: "Zip." Lotts. BROADWAY THEATER.-At 2 and 8: "Humply Dumpty."

COLOSSEUM.—Day and evening: "Cyclorama of Paris by Night." DALY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATER .- "Charity." GRAND OFERA HOUSE,-At 14 and 8: "Eileen Oge.

LYCEUM THEATER.-At 11 and 8: The Grand Parisian Folly. Niblo's Garden.-At 11 and 8 : "Davy Crockett." Frank OLYMPIC THEATER.-At 2 and 8: Novelty Entertainment. UNION SQUARE THEATER.—At 11 and 8: "Led Astray."
WALLACK'S THEATER.—At 11 and 8: "The Veteran." Lester Wallack.

Association Hall .- At 2 : Readings. Dr. Spencer. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.—Forty-ninth Annual Exhibition. Day and evening. ROBINSON HALL-Wallace Hop. STRINWAY HALL-Grand Concert.

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Business Notices.

THE NATION is on sale at the news-stands-BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE is the best in the BEST PLAN IN LIFE INSURANCE.—The all-ob, low-rule slock plan of the TRAVELBUR INSURANCE COMPANY. THE NATION'S editorial articles are: The

EVERYTHING IN HOMEOPATHY.
At BEHTPHERY, 502 and 817 Broadway, BOOKS, PARLIT Ma Cases, Homeopathic Spectrics, Verreirasant Medicines, To Delances, celleis, Herrichers' Witch Hairi, &c., &c.

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per an. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. Advertisements received at up-town offices, 544 W. 2d-st., or 308 W. 23d-st.; at the Harlem Office. 2,380 Fourth-ave., between 129th and 130th-sts.; and at the Brooklyn Branch Office, 323 Washington-st., next door to the Post-office, till 8 p. m., at regular rates.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1874.

TRIPLE SHEET.

and an American citizen have been arrested by Gen. Portillo. The agent was subsequently released. Sir John Karslake has resigned his place in the British Ministry, and Sir Richard Baggallay is to succeed him. - A compromise has been made by which the new Army bill is likely to be adopted by the German Reich stag. —— In the Canadian House of Commons wit-nesses were examined in the Riel case. A motion for his expulsion will be made on Monday.

In the Senate yesterday, a debate took place on the distribution of public documents; the Territorial Railroad bill was then taken up, and several amendments | misfortunes are no discredit to the intelligent made in Committee of the Whole were agreed to by the Senate: no action was taken, and the Senate adjourned till Monday. In the House the Currency bill came up, and several amendments were made thereto; the seventh and eighth sections were stricken out, but the question was not settled.

In the Massachusetts Senatorial contest two more indecisive ballots were had. Dawes being unable to regain his lost ground, and ex-Gov. Bullock appearing as a candidate. - Emil Lowenstein was hanged at Albany, and Prague Bryant at Pulaski, Tenn. - The emi grant fare from New-York to the West has been still further reduced from \$7 to \$5.

A suit for \$1,500,000 is reported to have been begur against Commodore Vanderbilt by James H. Banker The report of the Assembly Committee on Affairs of Cities pronounces the Street-cleaning Bureau ignorant and inefficient. - A memorial will be raised to Joseph Lancaster, the founder of an educational system. The investigation into the robbery of bonds from the Brooklyn Controller's office was begun. In the investigation of the Moore-Pinckney contest, witness testified to ballot-box stuffing. ---- The stepmother of Mary Ellen Wilson testified in the Supreme Court Chambers. - The impeachment resolutions against the Mayor, City Judge, and Commissioner of Public Works of Long Island City were withdrawn by the Board of Aldermen. —— Ignatius Spero was sentenced to 52 years in State Prison in Hudson County, N. J., for receiving stolen goods. —— Gold, 1134, 1134. 1134. Thermometer, 38°, 40°, 46°.

The report of the Assembly Committee on Cities on street-cleaning contracts in this city is printed on our second page. The Committee appear to have gone into the inquiry with great earnestness and a desire to find out all the facts. Their recommendations contemplate a much more thoroughly organized streetcleaning department than we have yet had,

The letter from Toronto which is published on our third page to-day contains, among other things, a statement of troubles which may possibly produce complications between Great Britain and Canada. The fact that the party now in power is acting as the champion of denominational education in this affair seems to indicate that it arrogated claims to Liberalism to which it is not much better entitled than its opponents.

The Legislature talks of adjourning about two weeks before it can possibly get through the business necessary to be done. To our thinking, however, there is neither merit nor dignity in passing such resolutions as that unanimously adopted by the Senate yesterday. Don't disparage yourselves, Senators, but go on and finish your business as becomes the picked representatives of the people, and not act as though you were afraid of being kicked out of the Capitol.

The report that the Secretaryship of the

able by recent outgivings from the Quaker City. That some change in the Treasury Department is almost certain may be assumed by those who do not suppose Gen. Grant to be blind and deaf and dumb. The statement elsewhere given on the subject from Philadelphia we have reason to believe entirely authorized.

The House has defeated Gen. Butler's scheme to postpone its Currency bill and pass that of the Senate. After a sharp skirmish, Mr. Maynard's bill was restored to the House with some changes, the most important being the striking out of the resumption clause. Final action, however, is postponed until Monday. One feature of the somewhat warm debate was Gen. Butler's gratuitous defense of the President's financial policy, about which the Essex statesman was finally forced to admit he knew nothing.

Quick Transit received some attention in the Legislature yesterday. The Senate passed the Beach Pneumatic and Broadway Underground Railroad bills; it also ordered to a third reading the bill extending the time for the completion of the Gilbert Elevated Railway. We have had so many promises and so much delay about these various projects for rapid transit that a feeling of discouragement has become quite general. But it is natural to believe that out of some of them we may finally succeed in one. The Eastman bill is expected to pass, it seems, although the Railroad Committeemen and their friends would like to revenge themselves on its author for the uncomfortable shower which he succeeded in bringing on their deserving heads.

The Society for the Diffusion of Universal Knowledge had a benefit in the Senate yesterday. The occasion was the introduction of a proposition to print certain public documents. This brought up the question of franking and printing at the public expense. Senator Carpenter defended the whole costly system on the plea that a great Government like ours should not suppress information. That the public documents which burden the Government Printing Office should be called "information" is a good joke. To say that a refusal to print this stuff is a suppression of anything worth knowing is a misapplication of the English language. To say that it is honest for Mr. Carpenter, or any other man who accepted and before the people defended the Philadelphia platform and the candidates placed upon it, is an insult to the common sense of the community.

The center of interest in Cuban affairs just now seems to be in the neighborhood of Puerto Principe. The Havana letter, which we publish on our third page, gives some additional particulars of the military operations about that city, especially of the battle at Guasimas. There now seems to be little reason to doubt that, if there were any advantages gained by either side, those of the insurgents predominate. A telegram from Key West, which we publish in another column, gives an account of the arrest of the consular agent of the United States at Nuevitas and an American citizen, who, it was at one time reported, had gone to protect embargoed property. The order of arrest was given by Gen. Portillo, the Spanish commander at Puerto Principe; and the fact that his cruelty and injustice are proverbial, is suggestive of a purpose to punish an American who will not submit to spoliation by accusing him of complicity in the insurrection.

Mr. Platt, who represents the Petersburg (Va.) district in the House of Representatives, denies that that city is governed by "the de-"signing leaders of ignorant men." He could hardly do less in return for the support of the carpet-baggers and negroes who control the municipal government of Petersburg, and to whom he is largely indebted for his seat in Congress. The fact remains as stated by the tax-payers of that city, when applying to the Legislature for relief from misgovernment, and as commented upon by Gov. Kemper in his message reluctantly vetoing the new charter. The bad plight of the unfortunate city was the ground of the application for relief. Its and enterprising citizens whose lot is there cast; but it is a burning shame to the politicians of the Platt stripe who, using the negroes as their tools, have brought on misgovernment and its attendant evils. The statement of Mr. Platt as to Petersburg is of no more weight than that of Mr. Whittemore as to South Carolina.

rid of Controller Green by declaring his office vacant and ordering a new election. Perhans Mr. Green is not faultless as a Controller, but certain it is 'that the movements which are made from time to time to get rid of him are inspired by those who dislike him for his virtues. In the treatment of this city by successive Legislatures for the last dozen years we fail to discover any great consideration of Congress-or we may go further and say in for popular sovereignty. It has a very suspicious look that Mr. Green is proposed as the first sacrifice to the popular will, or, to call promise. The greenback that bears the promthings by their right names, the rings of small politicians who control nominating conventions in this city according to directions received from a few head men. While we say this, however, we desire to add that, in so far as Mr. Green is responsible for the discreditable practice of employing for his Department a lobbyist at Albany, he deserves after year to the people the promise of the the severest rebuke. A reputable citizen there in that capacity could only bring the Controller into disrepute. Mr. Dexter A. Hawkins is a disgrace to him.

MOIETIES. The great obstacle to the abolition of the system of moieties is the fact that the Customhouse is the principal political engine of the ruling party. A Collector who is required to keep the machine in order, pack primaries and manipulate conventions, a Surveyor and Naval Officer who are expected to cooperate with their chief, and the numerous subordinates of the service, having their respective parts to play in the political game, must all be plentifully supplied with money, both for their personal use and for distribution. dogma of the great I Am of political trickery, That is the reason for moieties. We have warned the merchants from the first that the system would not be abandoned without a determined struggle, and that the politicians people's purse, by wordy fallacies, tricks of interested in its preservation, when they found a change inevitable, would resort to delusive amendments leaving the objectionable features of the law essentially unchanged.

A bill " to repeal all moieties and for other purposes" was introduced in the House of Representatives on Thursday by Mr. Ellis H. Roberts, from the Committee of Ways and Means. Mr. Roberts is the special comrade-Treasury has been offered to Mr. Anthony J. perhaps we should say the protegé-of Sen-

body knows, is the leader of the Custom- ing, the question whether the nation shall house faction. The bill introduced by Mr. adopt lying as a policy and false promises for Roberts was not voted upon in Committee, a currency, men are standing off from each and is not approved by the whole body from which it nominally emanates. A slight examination will show that it by no means reforms the existing abuses. It provides that all fines and penalties shall be paid in full to the United States, but the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered, out of an appropriation to be voted by Congress, "to make 'suitable compensation to informers and other persons aiding in the detection of smuggling and other offenses against the Cus-"toms Revenue laws, or aiding in convictions " of the same." An officer of the Customs or any other person detecting and seizing smuggled goods may receive not more than onehalf the net proceeds of the seizure, and any person not an officer of the United States who gives information of fraud upon the revenue shall be entitled to compensation not exceeding \$10,000 in any one case.

There are good ideas in this bill. Informers ought to be paid something, and the limit of \$10,000 is not too high, provided the Secretary of the Treasury exercises a reasonable discretion, instead of signing everything that comes before him in the course of the office routine. We are inclined to think that it is wise also to make special rewards for the detection and prevention of smuggling. But it is evident that the authority granted to the Secretary to make "suitable compensa-"tion" to all persons aiding in the detection or punishment of offenses against the revenue, is simply a device for the perpetuation of the very system which the reformers are now attempting to destroy. The clause is susceptible of a boundless freedom of interpretation. The Special Agent, the Collector, the Naval Officer, the Surveyor, the District-Attorney, the Spy, may all be assumed to aid in the detection or punishment of any offense brought to the notice of the authorities. They may all claim "suitable compensation;" and there will be only this difference, that now their shares are defined by law, and bear a fixed propertion to the value of the seizure, while Mr. Roberts would leave everything to the discretion of the Secretary. The share of the informer indeed must not exceed \$10,000; but there is no limit as to the others, and the compensation may be greatly beyond the whole amount of the penalty and forfeiture. The most objectionable feature of the bill

moralizing practice of paying Custom-house officers a handsome bonus on the discovery of undervaluations, irregularities, and frauds which it is their duty to prevent. It leaves them exposed, just as they are now, to the temptation of encouraging wrong, that they may afterwards make money by denouncing it. It sets their pecuniary interest in opposition to their official duty. It pays them a premium upon a lax and faithless administration of the law which they are sworn to execute. There is only one sensible and consistent course. Pay the Government officers a fair salary, and let that be their entire compensation. For exemplary vigilance let them expect promotion. For inefficiency and carelessness let them be dismissed. The revenue will never be honestly collected by any other

is that it does not in reality abolish the de-

SHALL THE NATION LIE?

Understand that the way of inflation upon which the country seems destined to enter, under the guidance and the spur of the Mortons and Logans and Carpenters and Butlers of the party in power, is not merely a path beset with lying and with temptations to lying-it is itself a lie. The men who are advising it, whether they call it inflation or by whatever euphuism delights them, know that they are repudiating the promises which they as party leaders made; that they are counseling that wholesale sort of lying of which a political organization is guilty when it deliberately refuses to do what it has covenanted to, and does what it has solemnly bound itself not to do. There no mistaking this situation. Mr. Wm. Walter Phelps and other Members of Congress have in recent speeches cited at length the promises of the original legal tender acts, the promises of official utterances, the promises of Presidential messages, the promises of party platforms, and above all, though only tacit and implied. the promise of the public faith and that decent regard for common honesty and National honor which is the base of public credit, that resumption should be the objective point of our legislation. Whoever votes or has voted for any proposition to dilute the value of the There is a bill before the Legislature to get present Government notes, by increasing the volume of them in circulation, must know that he is falsifying his word-his own personal word-to the people.

> All parties have committed themselves positively and unequivocally in favor of speedy resumption of specie payments, and in opposition to whatever shall retard such a consummation. There is not a man in either branch any elective office in this country-who is not personally committed to the fulfillment of this ise to pay of a government that takes no step toward paying is a falsehood on its face. Is there any short pet name which rises to the lips of a respectable community having regard for the fitness of things, in definition sharp and clear, of the men-statesmen they call themselves-who repeat year paper dollar, and then, with as fixed and deliberate purpose as ever a three-card monte man set his table with, proceeded to cheat the people and belie their promises ? This business is not merely providing currency for the people, not merely inflation; it is absolute and downright lying, and architectural lying at that. Upon the broad basis of engraved falsehood uttered by the Government, a fabric of deception is built up into which no grain of truth enters. A great political party having control of the Government stands between it and the people, pretending that by and by it will receive the capstone of Truth, which will redeem the whole structure. By all sorts of jugglery, by miserable pretexts of expediency, by the false meanness, and deceit, whose very vision is a delusion and a snare, that the people never revolt against what puts a dollar in the speech and all manner of pettifoggery, these men are trying to delude the country with such a sham as any man who knows the difference between a dollar and a pauper's promise of a dollar can detect at once.

And they call this statesmanship. Statesmanship! thing valuable at bottom. This is the dilution Drexel of Philadelphia is made to seem prob- lator Conkling; and Mr. Conkling, as every- of emptiness. And with this question pend- The world is yet far from that millennial

other, talking about party lines that existed in a period gone by upon issues that are dead, swept out into the limbo, impossible of resurrection. What question is there today that approaches in importance this one that so comes home to the national honor, and in which, as every thinking man can see, are involved far higher considerations than any that have ever at any time before entered into our politics? It is a waste of time to talk about parties or preserving parties before such an issue as this. The worst that threatened us during the dark days of the war was defeat. Better have been defeated then than dishonored now. There is no cause for this infamous action; no pretext or excuse for it. The people do not want it. They have the sense to see that it will not profit them, and they have the honesty to reject and spurn it if it would. There can be but one object in it, and that is to enrich a gang of speculating politicians who are, in the language of the Street, "loaded up for a rise." Is there not virtue enough in Congress to throttle this inredeem the promise which all parties have united in making? That is the question of

ERIE. About six months ago the Directors of the Erie Railway Company declared dividends on the preferred and common stock out of the earnings of the road for the nine months ended June 30, 1873. Almost immediately the question was raised whether the road had accumulated anything to divide out of its business during that period. Both in London and New-York charges were freely made that the accounts had been "cooked." It was necessary to borrow money to keep the road out of bankruptcy, and no money could have been borrowed had the true condition of the road been known. Hence the necessity of concealing the actual results of the operations of the road under the new management.

The view above presented of the financial condition of the Erie Railroad receives strong support from the communication we publish this morning from Col. S. H. Dunan, late General Auditor of the Company. The statements published by that gentleman during the last four weeks have elicited no satisfactory response from the officers and directors now in this country. President Watson is expected home on a steamer already due, and we hope that he will be able to relieve himself from the unfortunate position in which he is placed by the statements of Col. Dunan. The latter has held for nearly two years a very responsible position in the office of the Company. The conflicting statements of President Watson and Col. Dunan as to the disposition made of the seven and a half million dollars derived from the sale of convertible bonds present an issue of

It should be settled at once. We have have had the highest confidence in President Watson, and this we do not mean to surrender until we are forced to it. But we say to him in the frankness which confidence we have heretofore reposed in him warrants, that the affairs of the Eric Road and his connection with them | debts due the Government which he could lay are in such a position that some explanation from him is imperative. Col. Dunan is one of Mr. Watson's own appointees, and a man whose past reputation on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and before that in Ohio, gives him a prima facie title to consideration. He makes specific statements in regard to the sources from which the money was drawn to pay the last dividends, and they must be met, if met at all, by statements equally specific and better authenticated. This is the more necessary since, so far as our observations extend, the opinion is gaining ground that the late dividends were not earned, and that the Company, financially, is going from bad to worse.

LIMITS OF ARBITRATION.

About nine years ago, THE TRIBUNE published a letter from Mr. Thomas Balch of Rhode Island, recommending almost precisely the plan of arbitration in the Alabama case which, after infinite discussion, was finally adopted and carried out to so satisfactory a conclusion at Geneva. It is in reference to that early communication of Mr. Balch that Prof. James Lorimer, the Regius Professor of Public Law and of the Law of Nations in the University of Edinburgh, has written to him the letter which we print this morning. It is worthy of special attention as the mature utterance of a publicist who, having devoted his life to the study of international law and the theories of international relations, and having been a prominent advocate of arbitration and a constant protestant against the barbarism of war, retains enough of impartial calmness of judgment to recognize the limits which are probably imposed upon the capabilities of arbitration by the conditions of human nature and civilized polity.

Prof. Lorimer expects nothing of arbitration, for instance, in cases where one party is morally incapable of entering rationally into a contract, or physically incapable of enforcing its provisions when made. This excludes most of the fighting which ordinarily falls to the lot of England. It is evident that neither the Emperor Theodore nor the King Coffee-Kalkalli was capable of appreciating any procedure except the one which was put in force against them both. Neither is there any prospect that the civilized world will ever be able to interfere with the progress or the result of civil wars. Prof. Lorimer does not state this as his own conclusion, but his references to the Paris Commune and our own war of the Rebellion would lead in that direction. In cases where the real object of a war is to determine the relative strength of two nations. and where an unquestioned supremacy is to be the prize of victory, it is clear that arbitration is hopeless, except by an armed intervention of allied powers too imposing to be resisted. It was, for example, impossible to prevent the Franco-Prussian conflict. The trivial question of the interview of Benedetti and King William in the garden at Ems, might of course have been arranged in any half-hour's session of a jury of gentlemen. But the genuine, unmanageable question which remained behind, was the one which could not be peacefully settled; that is, whether Prussia or France was the stronger. The field of arbitration seems therefore to be limited to the class of disputes of which the Alabama and the San Juan Boundary questions are specimens. How narrow this field is, may be seen when we reflect that except What is it but organized lying ? in case of great popular excitement they would Debasing the coin was the sum of human never have been made a pretext for war, and wisdom compared with it, for that had some- that if this excitement had really existed they could not have been referred to arbitration.

condition when reason and charity are to exercise a commanding influence upon disputes between nations. The better sense of mankind has come, however, to recognize the irrational character of war, and the advocates of peaceful international tribunals are probably not too sanguine in hoping that the future is theirs. But at present their nearest attainable ideal is the establishment of an international organization of force which shall prevent wars by armed menace. There are many who doubt whether farmies will not survive courts of justice, and Mr. Lorimer cogently observes: "When I hear of a State of which the citizens "have become so reasonable and dispassionate as to abolish compulsory jurisdiction and to trust to voluntary arbitration, I shall then begin to have higher hopes of international reason and moderation, and consequently of international arbitration."

THE INVULNERABLES.

The man who can eat fire, or swallow a sword, or shoot bullets through himself, is always sure of indulgent audiences and enthusiastic plaudits. Invulnerability is one of the most interesting and popular of myths. famy, to save the honor of the country, and Achilles is not nearly so captivating for his prowess and his strength as for the fact that spears and bolts could rain on him without hurting him. The world has never outgrown this fancy. Money is never so tight that it refuses to flow into the cash-box of any juggler who can cut off his head or rip open his bowels in the presence of the public without mess or damage. The ordinary citizen never loses that much of the boy in him which delights in such performances. When the "Comedians in "Ordinary of the Mikado" come forward in their Oriental garments, which give them an air of mystery that makes their exploits a matter of course, and proceed to dance upon razor-edged scimitars, to thrust rapiers through their lungs, and swallow red-hot cutlasses a yard long, all with a calm and placid professional smile, there are few hearts so withered and sere in the audience as to withhold their tribute of appreciation. The trick never grows stale. It may be repeated year after year, but we are just as tickled with the show to-day as forgotten generations were with its predecessors, immortalized on immemorial tea-chests. In short, the oftener impossible things are done the more amusing they become. It is hard to refrain from the same feelings

of admiration when we see the antics that some of our rulers are able to play with their own characters with no apparent detriment. Think for an instant of the feats of Secretary Richardson. On general principles, it is impossible that any man could have proposed to resume specie payment on a few half-pints of silver coin, and could have remained Secretary of the Treasury an hour afterward. But he stood behind the counter a week or two, varying his mountebankery from the Five-Dollar Trick to the One Dollar Trick, amid the Homeric laughter of his audience, and then retired smiling and unburt behind the curtain. He has just concluded a still more extraordinary act of simulated suicide. He has appeared before a Committee of Congress, and has confessed that, without reason or law, he gave to one Sanborn permission to collect all his hands on, and to keep half for his trouble. When asked why he did this, he replied with evident truthfulness that he did not know. When pushed further, he said the law under which he did it ought to be repealed, intimating that if left in freedom, he was liable to smash any amount of crockery. He made so pitiable a figure in the Committee room that the opposition ceased to ask him questions, from utter shame over his ignorance and impotence. But he suffered less than they did. Mr. Beck did all the blushing in the unhappy colloquy. Mr. Richardson, after ripping himself open on the floor, gathered his remains gayly together and went back to the Treasury

He is not the only performer in this troupe of invulnerable acrobats. There is Mr. George Bliss, the younger, who occupies a high position in the administration of justice in this city. He subjects himself to a process usually considered mortal in all civilized countries; he shows how he has taken money from private individuals for neglecting his duty as a public officer. But his official health suffers no shock from it. Mr. Sawyer, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, repeats with slight modifications the exploits of his superior. He confessed that he had through gross ignorance and neglect assisted Sanborn in plundering the Treasury of some hundreds of thousands of dollars. In any country on earth, in any time but this, he could not have held office one day after such an avowal. The very words are suicidal and nothing less. But nobody can see the least effect-upon Mr. Sawyer's standing in Washington, although he has slain it in the Capitol with his own hands. Our "comedians in ordinary" may fairly bear away the palm from the whole world, for neat and continuous suicide. This may arise from the fact that they have so august a model. Our Mikado himself commits hari-kari whenever he gets a chance, and it is worth the entire price of admission to see Mr. John M. Forbes applaud.

MODERN HERODS. A pathetic appeal has recently been made by a mother in behalf of poor, uninstructed babies, the majority of whom are suffered until the age of three years to remain without any knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of their bodies. In order that mothers who have thus guiltily neglected their children may be shamed into wiser courses, she relates her own experience and gives the present mental condition of her offspring. The youngest, two years and a half old (the age when the mass of ignorant infants are battering their dolls' heads against the floor, or picking the sawdust out of their legs), is engaged in the daily study of "Hints Toward Physical "Perfection," and can explain the diagrams of the lungs, stomach, and heart. Another (also under three) made "Domestic Science, a Physiology, and a text book on Geology his favorite books; the latter, however, had to be withdrawn on account of the child's grief being so great because he never would be able to study the structure of a Pterodactyl from the life! We are not surprised to learn that this precocious youth, now aged four, comprehends and takes keen delight "in a diagram of the "circulation, or the nervous system, and finds 'it really beautiful;" or that he daily explains the beauties of an articulated skeleton to his playmates. There is some difficulty, it appears, however, even at this late date, in deciding whether he shall be a physician, as little Arabs of New-York take a cerhis zeal is equally great in the study of tain pleasure in the gutters of the busy geography and botany, and he bids fair to and lively streets where they live-become a profound linguist, according to his This Mary Ellen, aged eight years, had other. " having the constant habit of asking | never, to her recollection, been in the street.

"her about the derivation of words," The happy woman, having finished her triumphant statement, urges all mothers to go and de likewise. When the children crowd into the kitchen to see a chicken pie put to bake, is the time, she suggests, for a lecture on the anatomy of the fowl; and instead of Mother Goose and Puss in Boots, why should not they learn the difference between Pterodactyla and E. primo genius ? Why not, indeed? Now there is no reason why we should refer

to this appeal any more than to the innocent

cackling of any other well-meaning vain mother over her brood, except for the fact that it indicates the error and danger which underlie our American system of education. There is no such unscrupulous experimenter as the young, half-taught, ambitious mother, resolved to cram into the unprepared weak brains of her children the mass of vague undigested facts which she has brought away from school. The merest smattering of physiology, or, if she have not that, her own common sense, should teach her that her business for the first five years is to make of them healthy, honest little animals, who can properly digest their food, play, sleep, and tell the truth. She has her child's brain in her keeping-the most delicate of all instruments-to tone and strengthen and prepare for future use. An attempt to arain or set it prematurely to work is simply an irreparable physical injury. Yet not only this mother, but the mothers of countless unfortunate weams make them the victims of their theories, and send them to school with weak bones, sallow skins, and protruding foreheads, their brains full of a misconceived jumble of irrelevant scraps, which a wise teacher must root out before he can lay the foundation of scientific knowledge. Unfortunately the wise teacher is not always found. Children of from six to twelve years old in the majority of our schools are given masses of dry, meaningless facts, or abstract rules which they can by no chance comprehend, day after day, to cram into their brains, which are meanwhile never taught to observe, to reason, or to decide, unless in their games during play time.

Let any of our readers follow his nine-year old boy through one day's routine and he will find his rank in school determined by his ability to jabber of abstract and concrete nouns, or to give the hight of the Himalaya peaks. What intelligent idea for years to come can that child have of the real meaning of grammar which a month's study with a mature mind would master, or of what earthly importance is the hight of Himalayan peaks to him? Meanwhile it is left to chance to give him the love for learning, or for books, the sense of honor, the keen eye, the ready hand, the trained judgment which will make or unmake him as a man. The mass of school text-books now in use are but little more effective in training an immature mind than the young mother we have quoted when she teaches her babies to say, parrot-like, "My heart goes thump, thump, and my stomach "goes chum, chum!"

AN URBAN MYSTERY. Mr. Bergh has handsomely answered the

sneers of those who have been in the habit of saying that he only protected the lower animals at the expense of the higher. The little girl whom he brought before Judge Lawrence on Thursday was the best witness that could be called to prove his active and intelligent benevolence. We are apt to conclude that the stories of lost or stolen children which form so large a staple of the English romancers are mere conventional fictions, or at least are impossible in this country and time. But the half-starved and shamefully maltreated little waif who was thus rescued from the hands of her keepers and brought for the first time into the light and under the protection of the laws of her country, is the center of a mystery as deep as ever puzzled the reader of Mrs. Radcliffe, and the heroine of a story of suffering as pathetic as even the pen of Dickens could have Department, innocent of damage to habit or framed. Some of the critics of Mr. Bergh imagine they have abolished him with a flash of wit when they have called him Don Quixote. He has probably enough appreciation of the really noble qualities of Cervantes' Cavalier of La Mancha to bear this fling with perfect equanimity. There is something of the fantastic chivalry of the valorous Don in the spirit which induced Mr. Bergh to take up the whispers of the neighbors of the Connolly man and woman, and to assume the cause of the unseen child kept in durance by them. But the measures taken to carry out these good impulses were thoroughly modern and Anglo-Saxon. He did not mount his steed and set his lance in rest against the tenement of the Connollys. He obtained a warrant from the Supreme Court, and sent a detective with it to bring the injured little victim before the Judge.

Her own appearance, while it fully justified the intervention of the philanthropist, only deepened the mystery which surrounded the case. If she were an enchanted princess given over for a time into the hands of wicked fairies, she could not have been subjected to more singular and capricious cruelties. She was thin and pinched with hunger and coldnot the momentary deprivation of food and warmth which is all that most of us know of those words-but the long-continued habitual want of sufficient food and clothing which ends in a dull unconscious ness of the lack, and a gradual wasting of the powers of body and mind. She was too small for her age-stunted by her wretched lifeand her poor little wits had had so scanty cherishing that she possessed hardly more than speech and fear. Yet to prove that she was not naturally depraved, she had a quick sense of kindness and a ready and timidgratitude. The most pathetic thing about her little story was its matter-of-fact statements of sufferings which evidently seemed to her nothing remarkable. There was no resentment against those who had used her so ill. She knew nothing of the world outside the lodgings of the Connollys; she was never allowed to see other children, much less to visit or play with them. She was never out of the house except at night, and finally, she had no recollection of ever having been in the street! If there is any record of so dismal a childhood in the world we have never heard of it. The first joy of children is in each other's company. They will run away from the tenderest parental care to play with those of their own age. This little waif, eight years old, never had known a child. Kisses and soft words are as necessary to children as air and bread, but this little woman never knew what they were. Young savages have at least the free air and the soft grass in their favor. Even the dirty